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15 DEC 2005

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 05146291

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. National Phase Patent Application of:) Group Art Unit:
PCT/EP2004/050919)

Applicant: Marc Gerhardt, et al.) Examiner:

Serial No.:)

Filed:)

For: **FASTENING DEVICE**)

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits for the above-identified patent application, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments to be entered in the application.

IN THE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT:

Attached is a Marked-Up Specification And Abstract showing amendments therein to be entered prior to examination. Also attached to the filing of the application is a clean version of the Specification and Abstract, in the form of a Substitute Specification (With Abstract) incorporating the amendments and to be used for examination purposes.